THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Govt. have given the details asked for by the company as per the direction of Delhi High Court.

Excise Duty on Medicines

2685. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the recommendation of his Ministry medicines based on category I bulk drugs and 26 other drugs have been exempted from excise duty;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the sales turn-over of medicines based on these drugs is insignificant;

(c) what is the total sales turnover of formulations in the country per annum and what is the turn-over of finished medicines based on the drugs which have been exempted from excise duty in the proposed budget;

(d) whether it is also a fact that excise duty has been imposed on a number of medicines; and

(e) if so, what is the excise duty so imposed and what is the sales turn-over of these medicines?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b and (c) Turn-over of formulations is not monitored.

(d) and (e) All single ingredient Category-II formulations now carry a reduced Excise Duty @ 10% *ad-valorem* except these referred in part (a) of the question. Decontrolled formulations except where specifically exempt will carry an excise duty of 15 per cent *ad valorem*.

Prices of Neosporin range of Formulations

2686. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1209 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th March, 1988 and state:

(a) what are the reasons that the prices of Neosporin range of formulations, Suganril Tablets, Esgipyrin Tablets and actified Tablets have been increased from 50 per cent to 150 per cent;

(b) whether the manufacturers of these products have submitted the break-up as required before the increase of prices; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) As per the provisions of DPCO, 1987, the manufacturers of non-scheduled formulations are free to fix the prices, however, Government is keeping a watch and taking suitable action, wherever necessary. On Government intervention the maufacturer of Neosporin Powder 10 gm has reduced the price from Rs. 10.09 to Rs. 9.51.

(b) and (c) Manufacturers of these products have submitted the information as per provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987.